

HABITAT CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A **regular meeting** of the Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee (HCAC) was held in the Washington City Council Chambers on **May 24, 2016**.

Committee members present were:

Chris Blake, Chairman	Environmental Organization
Chris Hart, Vice Chairman	Local Development
Larry Crist	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Henry Maddux	Utah Dept. of Natural Resources (UDNR)
Dawna Ferris-Rowley	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Marc Mortensen	Citizen-at-Large
John Bramall	Mayors Association
Bob Sandberg	HCP Administrator

Also present were:

Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP – Recorder
Cameron Rognan	Technical Committee (HCP)
Ann McLuckie	Technical Committee (DWR)
Julie Applegate	St. George News
Susan Crook	Citizen's for Dixie's Future
Lisa Rutherford	Citizen
Bob Brennan	Brennan Holdings
Jim Raines	Brennan Holdings
Maile Wilson	Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chris Blake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. noting that a quorum was present.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting routine matters which come before the committee for approval. The consent portion of the agenda is approved by one (1) non-debatable motion. If any member wishes to remove an item from the consent portion of the agenda, then that item becomes the first order of business on the regular agenda.

- a. Approval of Agenda**
- b. Review and Approve Regular Meeting Minutes**
 - 1. April 26, 2016**
- c. Next Meeting Date**
 - 1. June 28, 2016**

MOTION by Marc Mortensen to approve the Consent Agenda.
Seconded by Larry Crist.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- a. None**

4. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Introduction of new HCP Administrator**

Chris Blake mentioned Bob will be retiring at the end of this month. He then introduced the new HCP Administrator, Lynn Chamberlain, who has worked with UDWR for many years.

5. UTILITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- a. None**

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Update on land acquisition efforts – Bob/Dawna**

Bob mentioned the HCP is working with the BLM to put out a request for proposals for mitigation on both the historical and pre historical cultural sites on the Long Valley exchange parcel.

Dawna mentioned the public comment period on the environmental assessment for the Long Valley exchange has closed. BLM will post a finding of no significant impact.

It has been approved for BLM to spend money from the Sportsman's and Recreation Access Land and Water conservation funds to purchase the Babylon property.

- b. Update on permit renewal – Larry/Bob**

Larry Crist said there is no new information to report regarding the permit renewal.

c. Consideration of 1st Quarter 2016 report

Henry asked about the current trend for outreach presentations. Bob answered the HCP is getting more requests for presentations and is reaching different audiences. For example, the HCP is currently speaking with a radio station regarding a commercial.

MOTION by Chris Hart to approve the 1st Quarter 2016 report.

Seconded by John Bramall.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

d. Technical Committee Report – Cameron Rognan

Cameron gave the technical committee report. He mentioned how Kade Bringhurst (a representative from St. George City) gave a presentation regarding a replacement well site in the Reserve. The TC decided they would like to take a field trip to the area next month. Kade also discussed expanding the T-Bone waterline. That discussion needs to go through the BLM first.

The committee looked at the Sentierre trail again. Snow Canyon State Park and their State Park Advisory Committee went out and looked at options. There was discussion of getting rid of part of the Toe Trail, but the committee ultimately decided to take a field trip to the area before their July meeting. They will further discuss the situation after the field trip.

Finally, they discussed firebreak options. There is potential this spring for SUNCLF volunteers or prison crews to help remove tumbleweed. Dawna mentioned there is a possibility the BLM could have someone spray herbicide as well.

e. Consideration of Jenny's Canyon seasonal closure dates

Cameron read the TC recommendation regarding the Jenny's Canyon seasonal closure dates, Exhibit 6-e-1. The recommendation from the TC reads: "Since 1996 multiple trails have been developed in the lower canyon of Snow Canyon State Park. Lifting the seasonal trail closure will not have a significant biological impact on tortoises; the TC recommends doing away with this closure".

MOTION by Larry Crist to accept the recommendation by the TC to lift the Jenny's Canyon seasonal closure.

Seconded by John Bramall.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

f. Discussion of ARS study at Turkey Farm

Bob mentioned Henry had questions and concerns relative to the ARS study at Turkey Farm. Henry expressed concern with the fact that ARS was not sure if tortoises would eat what they were planting as well as the amount of non natives being used in the study. He would like to get ARS working more closely with the HCP or State to help move them toward the direction that was first intended with this study. Bob mentioned he spoke with ARS and their objective is what Henry stated, to try to find something that will re vegetate the Turkey Farm as well as the Reserve and Mojave Desert, and he feels they are not off far from that objective. ARS has expertise in plant breeding, restoration, and selection, but not the ability to be able to do dietary studies with the tortoise. They are willing to work with someone to set up dietary studies for those purposes. Dawna mentioned the amount of non native plants and lack of a containment plan was concerning to her.

MOTION by Henry Maddux to direct the HCP Administrator to work with ARS to focus more closely on plants that will improve the Reserve as well as engage with the Technical Committee members so the tortoise can be an active component in the study .

Seconded by John Bramall.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

g. HCP Administrator's report- Bob

1. Clearances/Surveys

Bob updated the committee on recent clearances and surveys. The HCP staff has done clearances behind Green Valley and in Sprindale. They have also done surveys for a Hwy 91 project on the Beaver Dam Slope and a proposed road through Purgatory.

2. St. George City well #2 re-drilling

Bob mentioned St. George City has been re-drilling well number two.

3. June HCAC meeting location change

Bob mentioned the June 28th HCAC meeting will be held at the Washington County Water Conservancy building since the usual location will be used for voting.

4. Cache Valley Bank property purchase update

Chris Blake reported the Cache Valley Bank property will close on June 30th and it will become available at that point. It appears Confluence Park will get those 185 acres.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

This item is reserved for items not listed on this agenda. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this agenda item (three minutes per person).

- a. Bob Brennan thanked Dawna and the BLM for work on helping accomplish the acquisition of his land within the Reserve. He stressed the importance of having a plan in place for land acquisitions with the new permit being renewed soon.
- b. Lisa Rutherford mentioned she appreciated Henry and Dawna for their comments on the ARS work at Turkey Farm.
- c. Susan Crook reminded the committee that volunteers from SUNCLF are willing to help with fire control.

8. MEMBER REPORTS & REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Members of the committee thanked Bob for his service.
- b. Chris Hart asked for clarification on the direct harm to tortoises in regards to the proposed Northern Corridor. He would like to understand better the reasons a road should not be built there. Cameron Rognan mentioned the FWS submitted comments to the BLM for the management plan that contained a lot of information regarding the effects on the tortoise. Larry said he could provide those comments to the committee, but the committee can also have a discussion in the July meeting about the issue.

9. ADJOURN

MOTION by Marc Mortensen to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Chris Hart.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.
Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.